

Message Text

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17

ACTION SWF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAID

SUBJECT: EC FERTILIZER POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 092531 (B) THE HAGUE 2302

AS PROMISED IN REF B, MINAG HAS PROVIDED US WITH FOLLOWING
STATEMENT OF GON POSITION:

"THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY SHARES THE CONCERN OF THE
U.S. GOVERNMENT OVER THE CRITICAL WORLD FERTILIZER SITUATION, IN
PARTICULAR BECAUSE OF ITS EFFECT ON FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES. WE WELCOME INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF THESE MATTERS

WITH A VIEW TO ALLEVIATING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THE DIFFICULTIES OF
SOME DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

" WE HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN THE INITIATIVE OF DENMARK AND
SRI LANKA AT THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN,
WHICH HAS NOW RESULTED IN THE ADOPTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COUNCIL OF A RESOLUTION ON 'EMERGENCY MEASURES IN REGARD TO THE
SUPPLY OF FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES.' THE

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NETHERLANDS DELEGATION, IN SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION, DECLARED

THAT THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WAS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING WHAT FORM OF ASSISTANCE IT WILL PROVIDE.

"EVEN BEFORE THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION A GROUP OF OFFICIALS FROM THE MOST INTERESTED MINISTRIES IN THE HAGUE (AMONG WHICH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES) HAD ALREADY TAKEN UP CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FERTILIZER INDUSTRY TO EXPLORE THE SITUATION AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR HELP, WITH A VIEW TO ANSWERING A REQUEST FROM THE DIR GEN OF FAO, THAT REACHED US AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

"NO ANSWER HAS BEEN GIVEN YET TO FAO BUT WE HAVE FOUND THE SITUATION TO BE AS FOLLOWS: SO FAR THE PRODUCTION OF N-FERTILIZERS HAS NOT BEEN HAMPERED IN OUR COUNTRY BECAUSE THERE WERE NO RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF NATURAL GAS. THE INDUSTRY DID HAVE TO COPE WITH A FEW TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES RECENTLY. THE P-FERTILIZER INDUSTRY DID HAVE DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIAL. FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS TO COME THERE ARE NO POSSIBILITIES FOR ADDITIONAL DELIVERIES, BUT LATER THIS YEAR SOME EXTRA ORDERS COULD BE TAKEN.

"WITH REGARD TO THE SUPPLIES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE FIRST AIM MIGHT BE TO MAINTAIN EXPORTS TO THOSE COUNTRIES AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN RECENT YEARS. IF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED WOULD BE FORCED TO ECONOMIZE ON THOSE IMPORTS BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICES, GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER COULD BE CONSIDERED.

"FINANCIAL AID OR AID IN THE FORM OF FERTILIZER WOULD SEEM TO BE ALSO THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THOSE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THAT WOULD BE IN THE GREATEST NEED. IF TIME ALLOWS, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE PREFERABLE TO CONSIDER SUCH QUESTIONS AS PRIORITIES FOR CERTAIN COUNTRIES, FERTILIZER AID AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN FERTILIZERS IN A MULTILATERAL GROUP. HERE WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MEETING OF THE FAO FERTILIZERS COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN ROME (2-5 JULY) AND OTHER ACTION BY FAO IN CONNECTION WITH ECOSOC RESOLUTION MENTIONED ABOVE.

"AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HELPING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THEIR PLANTS, THE INDUSTRY THOUGHT THAT ONE OR TWO EXPERTS ON THE MANAGEMENT LEVEL MIGHT BE AVAILABLE, IF NECESSARY WITH A SMALL TEAM OF TECHNICIANS. IT WOULD ALSO BE POSSIBLE TO OFFER TRAINING IN THE NETHERLANDS TO SOME REASONABLY CAPABLE TECHNICIANS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

" ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLANTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REQUIRES A LONG TIME (ON THE AVERAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AROUND 5 YEARS). IN THIS FIELD THERE IS NO SPECIFIC GOVERNMENT POLICY.

"ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT POINT IS THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE APPLICATION OF FERTILIZERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL AID IN THIS FIELD SHOULD ALSO BE LOOKED INTO".

DECON NOV. 1, 1974.

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